

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Nile Nuggets for January 2014

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**Report Highlights:**

News on developments in agriculture and food in Egypt.

# Nile Nuggets

*News on Developments in Agriculture and Food in Egypt  
January 2014*

**GOE Attempts to Increase Meat Production:** In December 2013, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) prohibited the slaughter of calves less than 250 kilogram for veal in an effort to increase animal production. The MALR decision aims to inhibit nearly 500,000 head of calves from being slaughtered each year in order for them to mature to a weight that will result in Egypt's meat production increasing by 150,000 MT per year. In response, dozens of butchers have demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Agriculture's office in opposition to the decision. Local butchers argue that the decree will cause an increase in meat prices and consumers will look for alternatives. In 2013, Egypt produced around 400 thousand metric tons (TMT) of meat (cow and buffalo) and imported around 300 TMT of both products. In 2013, the value of total U.S. beef and beef offal sales to Egypt was \$215 million.

**US Wheat Gets Back On the Egypt Tender Scoreboard:** After having been shut out of Egyptian Ministry of Supply (MoS) tenders for the past 11 months, in January 2014, U.S. origin wheat was once again selected for purchase by the MoS's General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC). In all, GASC bought 115,000 MT of the US soft red winter wheat to be shipped in February 2014. The tenders were the first awarded for U.S. wheat by GASC since February 2013. In addition, from December 2013 - January 16, 2014 GASC announced purchases of wheat from France, Russia, and other Black Sea countries totaling 1.19 MMT. The tenders brought GASC's total purchases since July 2013 of imported wheat to roughly 3.7 MMT. GASC normally maintains 5-6 months of stocks for Egypt's subsidized Baladi bread program, either in physical wheat or under contract. It is expected that GASC will tender for an additional 1.5-2.0 MMT in the course of the next 6 months which will bring 12-month total imports to 5-5.5 MMT.

**The First International Conference on "Food and Agriculture-New Approaches":** During December 2-4, 2013 the First International Conference on "Food and Agriculture: New Approaches" was held at the National Research Center in Egypt in collaboration with the Arab Union for Sustainable Development and the Environment. The program focused on agricultural production, food security and innovative agri-food clusters. The Minister of Agriculture led a discussion on Egypt's national agricultural strategy thru 2030 which focuses on the preservation of land and water resources, improvement of the standard of living and taking advantage of small-scale industries, development of agricultural legislation and rulemaking to suit new circumstances, the adoption of novel technologies to increase crop yields, and responsiveness to problems caused by climate change.

**Egypt's Agriculture Minister Launches Initiative to Develop Horticultural Crops:** Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Ayman Abu Hadid announced the launch of an initiative to develop horticultural crops of high economic value to improve the income of farmers in Luxor. During a conference held in Luxor on January 2, 2014, Abu-Hadid said that Upper Egypt is the country's hope for development. Luxor enjoys a relative advantage regarding winter crops as introduces the best, he added.